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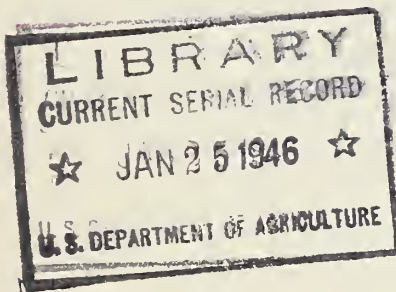
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF MARKETING SERVICES

SAFETY REPORT
CALENDAR YEAR 1944

Covering activities that were a part of the former Office of Distribution.

By

Richard B. Gossom, Jr., Safety Engineer
PERSONNEL DIVISION



WASHINGTON D. C.
JULY 1945

TO ALL SUPERVISORS

I have read this report with much interest and considerable concern. I am sure that you will find, as I did, that the accident problem in the Office of Marketing Services has reached serious proportions. Even in peacetime we cannot afford to waste thousands of man-hours of work and hundreds of thousands of dollars because of unnecessary accidents. It is still more essential that such waste be minimized in time of war.

Aside from the materialistic consideration, the fact that two persons lost their lives and more than five hundred employees sustained painful and disabling injuries, is more than enough to justify the use of every practical means at our disposal to eliminate or minimize accident and health hazards and to promote the safety of all OMS employees.

I am confident you will lend your fullest support and cooperation, therefore, in establishing and maintaining a comprehensive and continuous accident prevention program throughout the Office of Marketing Services. All of us must make the prevention of accidental injuries and deaths among our fellow employees and the prevention of accidental damage to our property and equipment a part of our daily tasks. This is a responsibility which we cannot and must not shirk.

I think we can do a great deal to reduce accidents. This report makes certain suggestions; others can be developed. It seems to me this is something in which every employee should have a part. However, our success will depend in large measure on your personal support and encouragement.

C. W. Kitchen

Director

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Marketing Services

SAFETY REPORT

Calendar Year - 1944

One out of every 17 OMS employees suffered an accidental injury last year. As a result two persons died, 16,689 man-days were lost and the taxpayers were out an estimated \$223,000. All of these injuries were avoidable and many of them could have been prevented by the exercise of additional care and by the installation and use of practical precautionary measures.

In all, 519 injuries sufficiently serious to require medical attention were sustained by OMS employees 1/ during 1944. In addition to the two fatalities, 263 of these injuries caused a loss of time beyond the day or shift during which the injury occurred. The resulting frequency rate of 12.3 disabling injuries and deaths per million man-hours worked is 22 percent greater than the frequency rate of the Department as a whole and more than three times as great as the rate of such hazardous industries as U.S. Steel, U. S. Rubber, Dupont, and General Motors.

The average loss of time per disabling injury, excluding the time charge for deaths, was 18 days. The total loss of 16,689 man-days represents a loss of 46 employee-years.

The \$223,000 estimated cost 2/ of these injuries represents an unnecessary expenditure of more than \$26 per employee per year or an average of \$630 per day including Sundays and holidays.

This needless waste of both human and material resources, in which there apparently has been no appreciable change during the past few years, need not be accepted as inevitable. Accidents can be prevented - many of them by the constant observance of a few simple safety rules and practices.

The effects of the mental and physical suffering, which always accompany injury and death, can not be measured. Neither can they be adequately compensated. They can be eliminated by removing the cause.

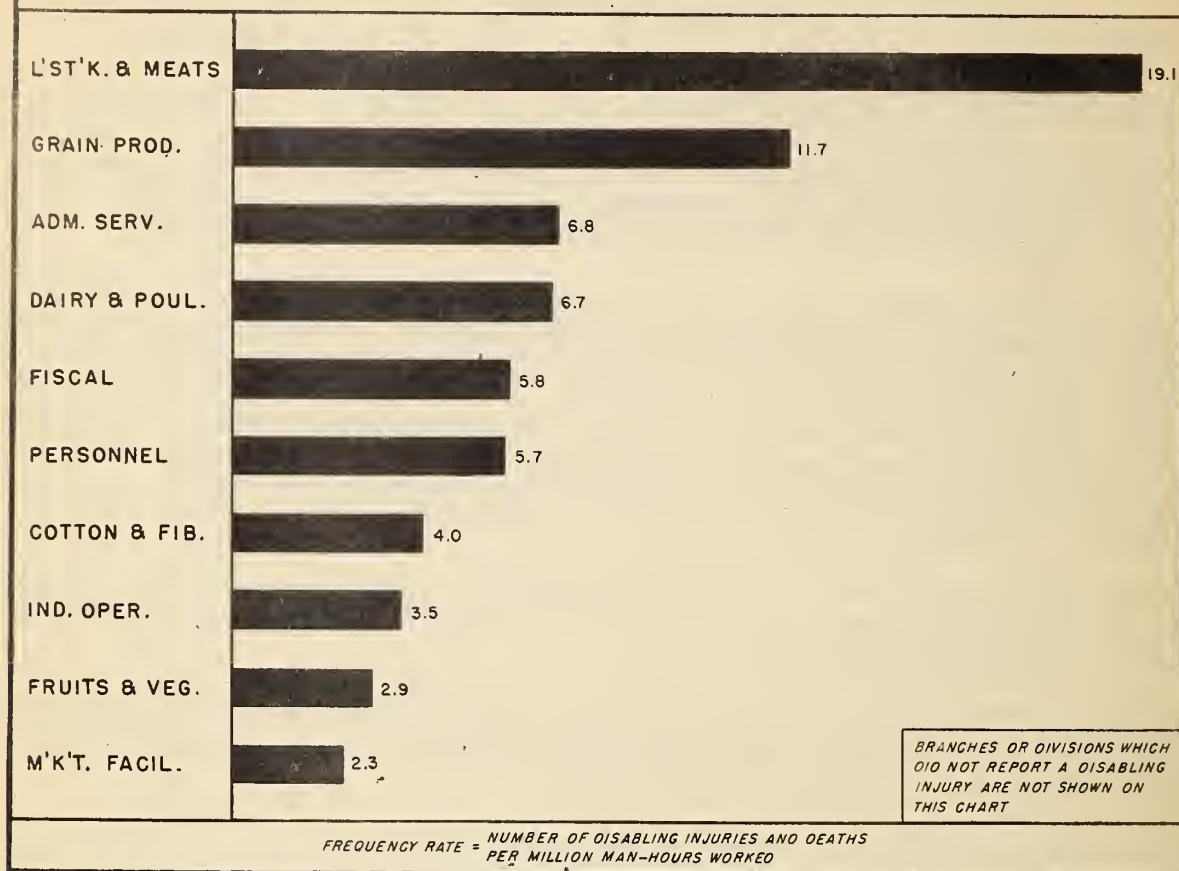
The following report outlines in more detail the injury experience of OMS during the past year. A study of the statistical information should point to the trouble spots which need special attention. The application of the suggested practices should eliminate many of the hazards encountered and be of material assistance to supervisors in getting the work of OMS done more safely.

1/ The Office of Marketing Services was established January 1, 1945. These injuries were sustained by Office of Distribution employees while actually engaged in activities now constituting the Office of Marketing Services.

2/ Cost figures for 1944 are not yet available. This estimate is based on the average costs of injuries and deaths among OD employees as reported by the U. S. Employees' Compensation Commission for the year 1943.

INJURY FREQUENCY RATES BY BRANCHES

CALENDAR YEAR 1944



WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION

NEG. 854

OFFICE OF MARKETING SERVICES

It is not the purpose of the charts or tables included in this report to "rank" the branches and divisions according to injury frequencies, but rather to show where and at what rate disabling injuries were sustained during the year. The hazards encountered naturally vary with the type of work performed and this should be kept in mind when studying these data.

It will be noticed from the above chart and accompanying table that nine branches and divisions, including the Office of the Director, did not report a disabling injury during the year. Four others - three with field operations - had a frequency rate less than five. The rates of the remainder, which include staff divisions as well as branches with field programs, range upward to 19.

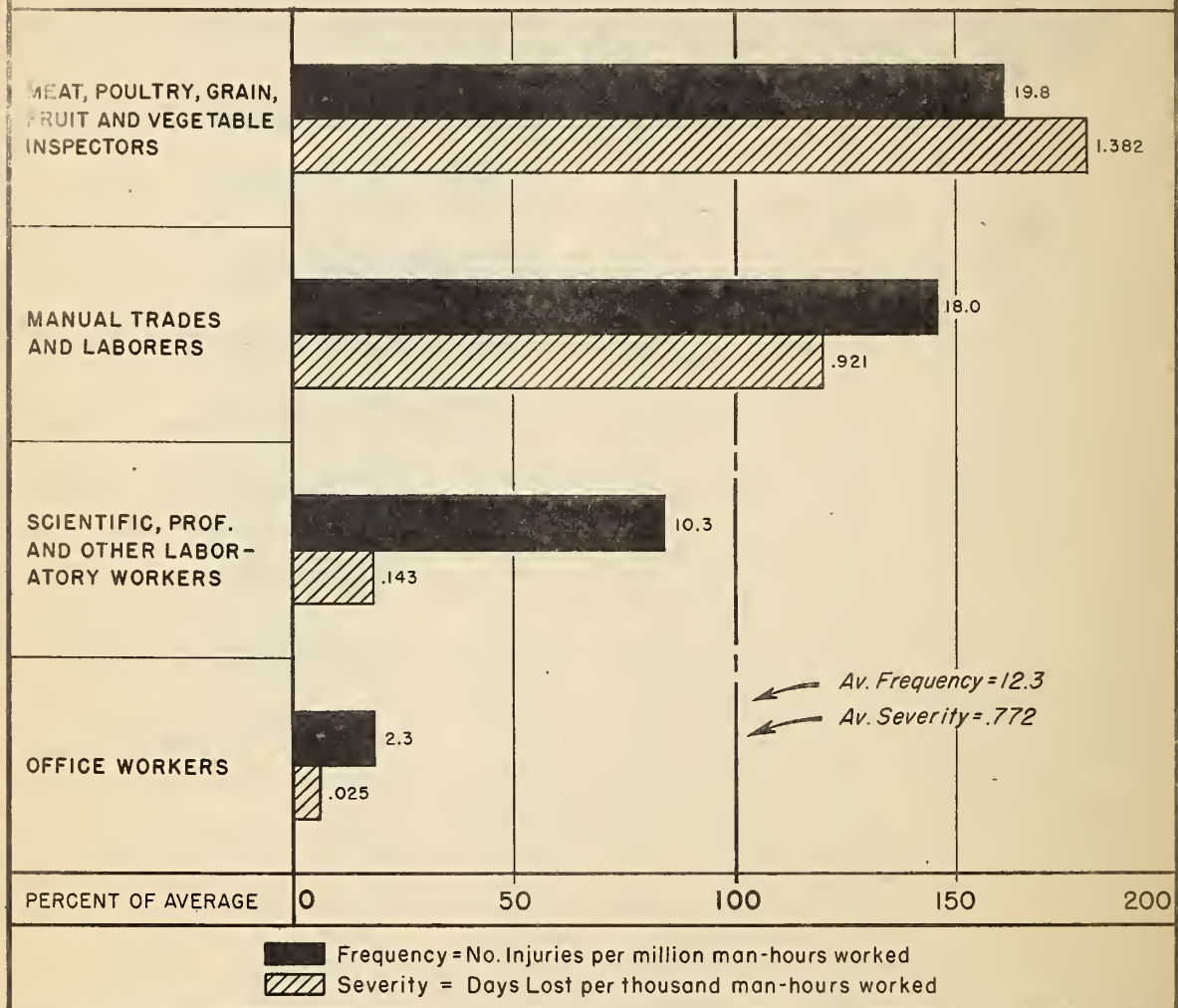
This wide variation in frequency rates indicates very strongly that there is an opportunity, not only in those branches engaged in the more hazardous activities but also in branches and divisions whose work is primarily desk type, to accomplish substantial reductions in injury frequencies and to benefit by the savings in money, manpower, and human suffering.

FREQUENCY AND SEVERITY OF DISABLING INJURIES BY BRANCHES, 1944

BRANCH OR DIVISION	AVERAGE NUMBER EMPLOYED	TOTAL MAN-HOURS WORKED	INJURY FREQUENCY			INJURY SEVERITY	
			NUMBER INJURIES	NUMBER DEATHS	RATE 1/	DAYS LOST	RATE 2/
OFF. OF DIR.	33	80,426					
ADM. SERVICES	298	733,138	5		6.8	201	.273
BUDGET & ORG.	21	52,942					
CIV. FOOD REQ.	37	85,598					
COTTON & FIBER	521	1,271,245	5		3.9	97	.076
DAIRY & POULTRY	669	1,641,354	11		6.7	129	.079
FATS & OILS	55	135,170					
FISCAL	285	695,806	4		5.8	28	.041
FRUITS & VEG.	982	2,413,756	7		2.9	117	.048
GRAIN PRODUCTS	489	1,197,223	14		11.7	220	.184
INDUSTRY OPER.	24	57,447	2		3.5	2	.035
L'STK & MEATS	4,568	11,199,829	212	2	19.1	15,821 ^{3/}	1.412
MKTG. FACIL.	176	430,471	1		2.3	46	.107
MKTG. REPORTS	63	130,665					
NUTR. PROGRAMS	83	202,756					
PERSONNEL	145	355,306	2		5.7	28	.079
SPEC. COMMOD.	111	270,341					
SUGAR	35	86,895					
TOBACCO	231	563,210					
TOTALS	8,826	21,603,578	263	2	12.3	16,689	.772

1/ NUMBER OF INJURIES AND DEATHS PER MILLION MAN-HOURS WORKED.
 2/ NUMBER OF DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND MAN-HOURS WORKED.
 3/ INCLUDES 6,000 DAYS TIME CHARGE FOR EACH DEATH.

INJURY FREQUENCY AND SEVERITY RATES, BY TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT



WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION

NEG. 856 OFFICE OF MARKETING SERVICES

DEFINITIONS OF OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS

Meat, Poultry, Grain, Fruit and Vegetable Inspectors. Employees engaged in inspection activities. Includes Warehouse Examiners but does not include Cotton Classers or Tobacco Inspectors.

Manual Trades and Laborers. Employees who perform manual labor, either skilled or unskilled, including route messengers.

Scientific, Professional, and Other Laboratory Workers. All employees who work in and are subject to the hazards of a laboratory.

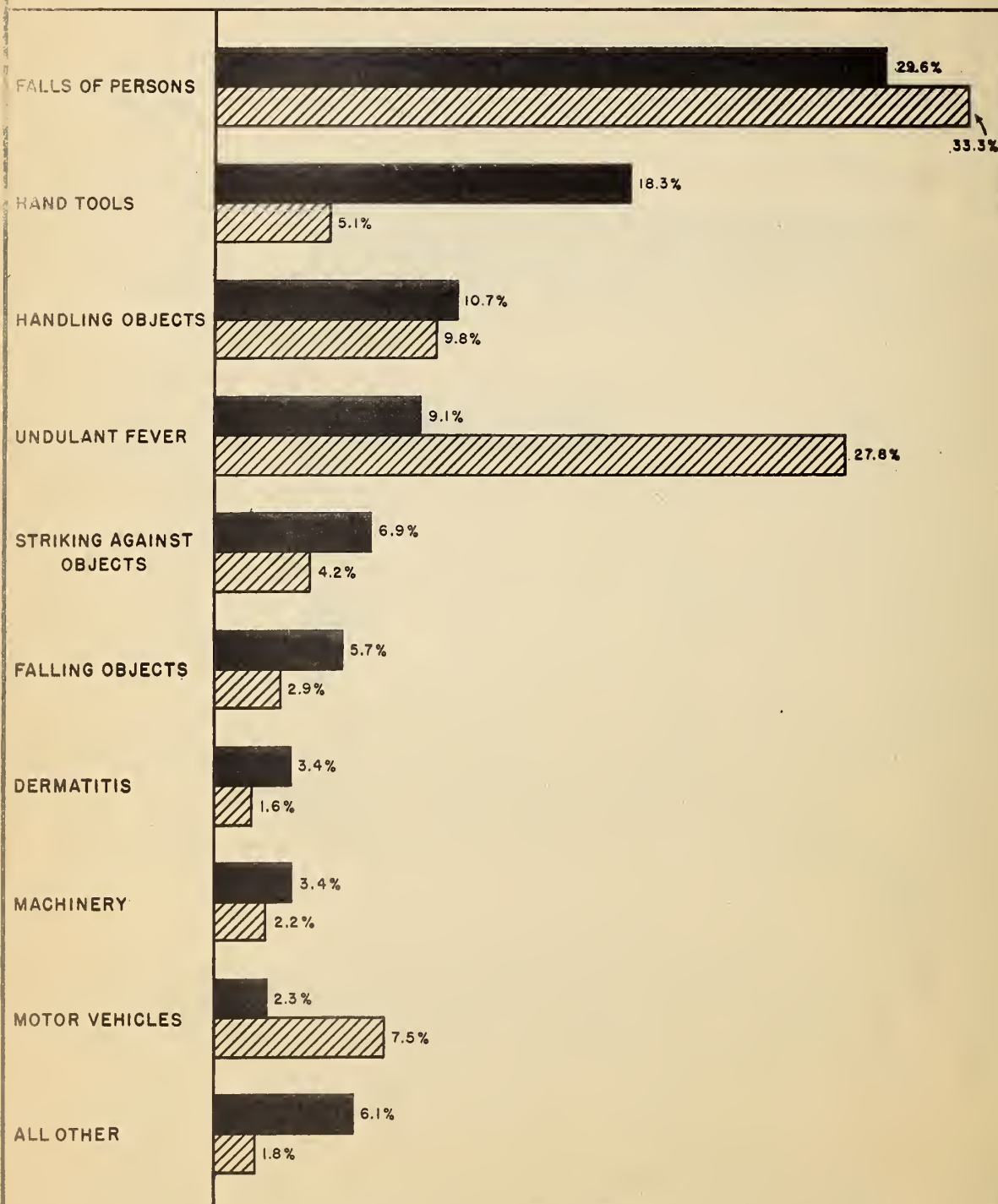
Office Workers. Employees who work all or a majority of their time in offices or who are engaged in occupations subject only to minor hazards. Tobacco Inspectors and Cotton Classers are included in this group.

INJURY FREQUENCY AND SEVERITY BY TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT

(SHOWING BREAKDOWN BY BRANCHES OR DIVISIONS REPORTING INJURIES)

BRANCH OR DIVISION	BRANCH TOTALS			MANUAL TRADES AND LABORERS		SCIEN. & PROF. & OTHER LAB- ORATORY WORKERS		MEAT, POULTRY, GRAIN, FRUIT & VEG. INSPECTORS			OFFICE WORKERS	
	NO. INJ.'S	NO. DEATHS	DAYS LOST	NO. INJ.'S	DAYS LOST	NO. INJ.'S	DAYS LOST	NO. INJ.'S	NO. DEATHS	DAYS LOST	NO. INJ.'S	DAYS LOST
ADM. SERVICES	5		201	3	199						2	2
COTTON & FIBER	5		97	3	66	2	31					
DAIRY & POULTRY	11		129			5	71	2		7	4	51
FISCAL	4		28								4	28
FRUITS & VEG.	7		117					5		114	2	3
GRAIN PRODUCTS	14		220	1	89	2	12	9		114	2	5
INDUSTRY OPER.	2		2								2	2
L'STK & MEATS	212	2	15,821			1	25	209	2	15,696	2	100
MKTG. FACIL.	1		46					1		46		
PERSONNEL	2		28								2	28
TOTALS	263	2	16,689	7	354	10	139	226	2	15,977	20	219
AV. NUMBER EMPLOYED			8,826		149		403			4,728		3,546
MAN-HOURS WORKED			21,603,578		388,864		972,161			11,536,311		8,706,242
FREQ. & SEV. RATES		12.3	.772	18.0	.921	10.3	.143		19.8	1.382	2.3	.025

CAUSES OF NON FATAL INJURIES AND RESULTING LOSS OF TIME, 1944



■ = Percent of total number of nonfatal injuries.

▨ = Percent of total days lost time.

CAUSES OF FATAL INJURIES - 1944



FALLS OF PERSONS - ONE



MOTOR VEHICLES - ONE



"Falls of Persons" was the greatest single cause of accidental injuries and loss of time in OMS last year. One death, 29.6 percent of all non-fatal injuries, and 33.3 percent of all time lost because of injuries were attributed to this cause. The death and a large majority of these non-fatal injuries occurred among employees of the Livestock and Meats Branch who work on wet and greasy floors in slaughtering and packing plants. It is significant, however, that all other branches and divisions combined sustained injuries from this cause in approximately the same proportion (26.5%) to the total number of injuries reported by these branches. In other words, "falls" is a serious source of accidental injuries in all activities of OMS.

"Hand Tools" was the second most frequent cause of injuries during the year, accounting for 18.3 percent of all disabling injuries reported. In contrast these injuries caused only 5.1 percent of the total days lost and rank fifth among the major causes of lost time. This is due to the fact that most of these injuries were knife cuts which resulted in an average of only five days lost time in comparison to the average of 18 days for all disabling cases. These injuries should not be taken lightly, however as they are frequently serious. One of those reported involved the severance of the tendons in the wrist. Another resulted in the amputation of the left index finger because of an infection from a small cut.

Minor cuts and abrasions may also be a factor contributing to the disability due to "Undulant Fever" which is second only to "falls" as a cause of lost time. This disease may be acquired by drinking infected milk or by contact with infective material. All cases recorded among OMS employees in 1944 were reported by meat inspectors and were apparently due to handling the infected carcasses of Bang's reactor animals.

The operation of "Motor Vehicles" was also a major source of accidents last year. While only 2.3 percent of the non-fatal injuries were due to vehicles, one death, and nearly 8 percent of the lost time resulted from this cause. In addition there were approximately six automotive accidents causing damage to government and privately owned property and equipment for each one included in this report as having resulted in a disabling injury to a government employee.

CAUSES OF DISABLING INJURIES BY BRANCHES, 1944

CAUSE	NUMBER OF INJURIES	PERCENT OF TOTAL	A.S.	C.&F.	D.&P.	Fi.	F.&V.	G.P.	I.O.	L.&M.	M.F.	Pe.
ANIMALS	6	2.3								6		
BURNS	3	1.1			1					2		
FALLING OBJECTS	15	5.7		2					1	12		
FALLS OF PERSONS	78	29.6	1		3		4	4	1	63	1	1
HAND TOOLS	48	18.3		1						47		
HANDLING OBJECTS	28	10.7	2		2	2	1	5		15		1
MACHINERY	9	3.4	1	2		1		1		4		
MOTOR VEHICLES	6	2.3					1	1		4		
POISONS & CORROSIVES	3	1.1			2			1				
STRIKING AGAINST	18	6.9			1	1				16		
UNDULANT FEVER	24	9.1								24		
DERMATITIS	9	3.4								9		
MISCELLANEOUS	16	6.1	1		2		1	2		10		
TOTALS	263	100.0	5	5	11	4	7	14	2	212	1	2

LOSS OF TIME RESULTING FROM NONFATAL INJURIES BY BRANCHES AND BY CAUSES, 1944

CAUSE	DAYS LOST	PERCENT OF TOTAL	A.S.	C. & F.	D. & P.	FI.	F. & V.	G. P.	I. O.	L. & M.	M. F.	Pe.
ANIMALS	96	2.1								96		
BURNS	74	1.6			62					12		
FALLING OBJECTS	136	2.9		61					1	74		
FALLS OF PERSONS	1,561	33.3	167		33		107	177	1	2,006	46	25
HAND TOOLS	238	5.1		1						237		
HANDLING OBJECTS	459	9.8	30		7	12	1	15		391		3
MACHINERY	101	2.2	2	35		14		11		39		
MOTOR VEHICLES	353	7.5					1	1		351		
POISONS & CORROSIVES	10	0.2			6			4				
STRIKING AGAINST	196	4.2			2	2				192		
UNDULANT FEVER	1,302	27.8								1,302		
DERMATITIS	76	1.6								76		
MISCELLANEOUS	86	1.8	2	19			8	12		45		
TOTALS	4,689	100.0	201	97	129	28	117	220	2	3,821	46	28

WHAT WE CAN DO

The accident record of OMS as shown in this report, is unquestionably high, particularly when compared with the record of some other governmental agencies and industrial concerns which also engage in hazardous operations. This need not continue to be so. It has been demonstrated conclusively both in Government and in industry that the frequency as well as the severity of accidents, can be reduced and kept at a low level through a concerted and unified safety program. The accident record of several branches of OMS would undoubtedly be higher than they are if considerable attention had not been given to the safety of employees during the past year. By intensifying these activities and by broadening the scope of the program to include all OMS employees the over-all record can be improved and the over-all efficiency of the organization increased.

To attain this goal we must be guided by the four fundamentals of safety. They are:

1. Learn to recognize hazards.
2. Eliminate all hazards possible.
3. Learn to work safely with those hazards which cannot be eliminated.
4. Know what to do in case of injury.

All of our efforts in accident prevention should be aimed at the achievement of these objectives. The more successful we are in learning what the hazards are, the more successful we will be in eliminating them and in working safely with them. The more we know about the proper treatment of injuries the less chance of infection or prolonged disability. We usually get stung by bees when we come upon a nest unexpectedly or when we try to work with or near them without knowing how. The bee-keeper who knows and understands their habits works with them daily without harm by taking the proper precautionary measures. He also knows how to treat a sting to prevent harmful and painful effects.

This plan may be effectively applied to OMS activities by adhering to the following suggested practices.

I. REPORT ALL ACCIDENTS

Supervisors should insist that all accidents, causing either personal injury or property damage, be reported. Successful accident prevention, like most other enterprises, requires an accurate and complete record system. An executive would not expect profits without adequate records of production, costs, and sales. Similarly, we cannot expect satisfactory results from a safety program based on meager information about past accident experience. On the other hand, accurate and complete reports of all accidents based on actual knowledge of the circumstances, will supply a greater knowledge of the hazards encountered and will provide a sound foundation for prescribing and applying effective remedial measures.

II. INVESTIGATE ALL ACCIDENTS

Accidents cannot be properly reported or prevented unless all the facts about all the accidents are known. Therefore, each accident should be investigated by the officer in charge, or by someone designated by him, in order that the basic or underlying causes as well as the apparent cause may be determined. For instance, it is not sufficient to report that an employee sustained a broken ankle from a fall down the stairs. While such a report states the nature of the injury and the apparent cause, it offers little information of value from the prevention viewpoint.

In addition to the above the investigator should seek the complete facts concerning such questions as the following. Was a handrail provided and if so was the employee using it at the time? Was the stair well adequately lighted? Was the employee carrying bundles or material that may have obstructed his vision or prevented his using the handrail? Was the load sufficient to justify or more properly require the use of an elevator? Were the treads in good repair or were there any tripping or slipping hazards present? Were there any other physical or mental distractions that may have contributed to the accident? Only when such facts as these are known can we recognize the basic hazards and take appropriate preventive action.

III. ELIMINATE HAZARDS

Accident hazards usually fall into two general classes - physical hazards and those inherent in the human element. The first means dangerous surroundings, the latter, careless or indifferent attitudes. The first can be controlled by changing or improving the working conditions or environment, the latter by training and supervision. The proper investigation of previous accidents should point to the action needed.

The officer in charge should take immediate steps, within his authority, to eliminate the hazards found, and should recommend those that may require approval of higher authority. Special problems should be referred to the Safety Engineer. It should be emphasized that accident prevention is not wholly technical nor is it something mysterious. It is primarily the application of simple procedures and techniques designed to remove the physical or mental hazards involved. The first and second line supervisors, who are close to the work being done are the key persons in such a program and its success or failure will largely depend on their independent and collective action.

IV. ORIENT AND TRAIN EMPLOYEES

Each new employee and each old employee starting on a new job should be thoroughly acquainted with the hazards likely to be encountered. The admonition to "be careful" is totally inadequate. Each specific hazard which cannot be eliminated should be pointed out, and the employee instructed as to how he can work with these hazards safely. It is very important that correct habits be formed in the beginning. It is much easier than trying to change old ones later.

As in the case of new employees, old employees must also be instructed in safety. They must be informed of any changes in policy and kept abreast of any new techniques and procedures that may be developed. And what is more important, the interests of all employees in their own safety and in the welfare of their fellow workers must be aroused and maintained.

V. CONTROL THROUGH CLOSER SUPERVISION

Supervisors should check the work of all employees continuously for signs of unsafe practices or hazardous conditions, and should insist on the observance of all safety rules, regulations, or practices that may have been established. Supervisors should also encourage employees to work safely by setting the proper example.

VI. APPOINT A SAFETY COMMITTEE

The officer in charge at offices and field stations where ten or more persons are employed should appoint a safety committee to assist him in carrying on the safety program. Both industrial and governmental establishments have found this system to be very beneficial. Members of the committee should make safety inspections, conduct investigations of accidents and near accidents, and assist in the formulation of safety standards and regulations. Regular meetings should be held monthly, with special meetings to be called by the chairman when circumstances demand. At locations where fewer than ten persons are employed, safety should be made a part of regular staff discussions.

VII. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Space will not permit us to include in this report recommendations covering all of the hazards likely to be encountered in the various activities in OMS. Specific recommendations or regulations concerning specific problems or operations will be issued from time to time through appropriate administrative channels. However, the following pointers should be helpful to individuals and supervisors alike in getting the job done more safely.

A. Keep automotive equipment in safe operating condition. Check all safety and control devices daily, and do not drive a vehicle having a known defect. It is much cheaper and far safer to have it repaired first. Even the most careful individual cannot operate unsafe equipment very long without having an accident.

B. Practice defensive driving at all times. Stay within the maximum safe driving speed. Drive so that the vehicle may be brought to a complete stop within the clear sight distance. Take the right-of-way only when it is safe regardless of the legality involved. The safest piece of equipment is unsafe when operated by a careless individual.

C. Use mechanical safeguards. Guard all moving parts of machinery with which the body or clothing may come in contact. Place hilt guards or pegs on all knives to prevent the hand from slipping up over the blade. Provide handrails on all stairways and erect guardrails on elevated platforms.

D. Use protective clothing and equipment. Whenever possible, use protective clothing, equipment, and devices designed to meet the specific need. Gloves, aprons, safety shoes, goggles, respirators, knife scabbards and protective creams are a few that have a proper place in some OMS programs.

E. Learn how to lift. Many painful back injuries and hernias have been caused by improper or overlifting. Do not attempt to lift excessive loads alone. Get help when necessary. Lift with the legs instead of the back. Bend knees, keeping back nearly vertical and use the powerful leg muscles.

F. Keep safe distance between workers. Whenever the job requires two or more persons to work in close proximity to each other, the work should be so arranged as to prevent one from injuring the other.

G. Practice good housekeeping. Dispose of all rubbish and waste; keep stairways, aisles, passageways and exits free from obstructions; keep floors clean; remove ice and snow from walks and steps; provide receptacles for waste paper, carbons, etc., and separate trays for cigarette butts and ashes; help keep toilets, lavatories and wash rooms in a clean and sanitary condition.

H. Provide adequate fire fighting and fire protection equipment. The proper disposal of rubbish and waste material, the frequent inspection of electrical and heating equipment, the safe storage and handling of flammable liquids, and the practice of good housekeeping will do much to prevent fires. However, it is very important that suitable fire extinguishers be immediately available in order that incipient fires may be brought under control. Exhaust systems should be installed to remove explosive fumes and gases.

I. Get plenty of rest and eat balanced meals. Healthy bodies and alert minds are excellent guards against accidents as well as illness. Proper rest and diet contribute greatly to these desirable conditions.

J. Use extra salt in hot weather. Excessive perspiration lowers the salt content of the body and results in both mental and physical fatigue. Tired minds and tired bodies are accident's favorite victims.

K. Secure first aid immediately. In case of injury, no matter how slight, it is very important that proper first aid treatment be secured immediately. Only a small percentage of injuries so treated become infected. On the other hand a much larger percentage develop infections when delayed treatment or no treatment at all is secured. These result in greater loss of time, prolonged treatment, and frequently in permanent partial disability. Employees not immediately accessible to emergency rooms or dispensaries should be provided with unit type First Aid Kits.

L. Know how and where to secure medical attention. All supervisors and officers in charge should make sure that all employees under their supervision know the name and address of all U. S. Medical Facilities or Designated Physicians in their particular locality, and how to secure proper medical examination and/or treatment in case of injury or occupational disease.

APPENDIX OF TYPICAL CASES

The following are brief descriptions of a few actual cases reported during 1944. Where sufficient information concerning the cause of the accident or injury is available, recommendations for the prevention of similar cases are also included.

1. An office employee tripped over a telephone cord and fell, her left side striking the corner of a desk. Result: Fractured ribs, and contusions of shoulder and hip, 45 days lost time.

Accidents of this type can be avoided by keeping aisles, passageways, and open floor space free from tripping hazards such as telephone or extension cords, standpipes, open desk drawers, etc. When it is impossible to change the location of electrical or telephone outlets, the furniture should be arranged so as to prevent walking over the wires.

2. As a female laboratory assistant reached to turn the water valve of a malt bath apparatus, her hair was caught and wound into the gears activating the stirring rods. Before her alarm brought aid to stop the machine a considerable amount of hair had been pulled out and her head badly bruised. Result: Severe pain and 11 days lost time.

The position of the valves was changed after this accident occurred. Other effective precautionary measures for the prevention of similar cases are: Protective hair shields for women, avoidance of loose cuffs, sleeves, flaps, belt ends or bows, and the placement of guards over moving parts of machinery.

3. In reaching for his knife which had become covered up in viscera tray, employee struck the blade with his right hand. Result: Deep cut on thumb requiring six sutures, 11 days lost time.

Knives left lying loose on work benches or tables or in trays are a hazard to all workers at the bench. Slots in tables or, preferably, small vats containing disinfectant and knife rack are recommended. Knives carried in the hand or stuck in belts are also unsafe as well as unsanitary. Metal or plastic sheathes should be used by all employees whose jobs require them to move around, carrying one or more knives.

4. An employee whose work required the use of carbon paper and duplicating inks, suffered a severe case of dermatitis. A rash, with attending swelling, itching and burning appeared on both hands.

Several cases of this type were reported during the year. Poisoning in some cases was attributed to the ink or carbon used. In others to the strong soap used to remove the stains from the skin. As a precautionary measure, employees required to work extensively with hectograph or duplicating inks should be supplied with a protective cream to prevent the ink from entering the pores and to facilitate cleaning the hands. Stenographers and typists who are allergic to carbon poisoning should also use a similar preparation.

5. While making a sanitary inspection an employee's hand was caught between two drums, causing a cut and bruise of the left index finger. Infection set in later making it necessary to amputate the finger.

This case clearly demonstrates the need for securing prompt and adequate first aid treatment, and for keeping the wound clean and sterile until properly healed. To prevent injuries of this kind it is suggested that gloves be worn to protect the hands particularly while handling objects with rough or sharp edges. Washable canvas gloves are probably the more satisfactory.

6. While inspecting hog heads, employee stubbed the point of his knife against a bone causing his hand to slip up over the blade. Result: Deep cut, one and one-half inches long in left thumb, 13 days lost time.

A guard, either of metal or leather, placed firmly at the junction of the blade and handle will prevent this common type of injury. Knives, equipped with similar guards can be purchased from some cutlery manufacturers. A peg placed through the handle so as to fit between the fingers will also serve a similar purpose.

7. While washing flasks containing toluene solution, employee fainted. She later complained of irritated throat and pains in both sides of chest. Case diagnosed as acute intoxication from toluene. Two days lost time.

An exhaust fan was installed in this laboratory soon after this accident occurred. Exhaust systems, capable of lowering the toxic content below the harmful level, should be installed and maintained in all laboratories where noxious fumes and gases are present. In addition, suitable masks or respirators should be provided for emergency use or for working in spaces where fumes or gases may be concentrated. The danger from explosions must also not be overlooked.

8. While performing post mortem inspection of cattle an employee struck the foot pedal of a staple machine, causing a small cut and abrasion on his ankle. The injury was not considered serious at the time and it was not immediately reported. When it became sore a few days later the officer in charge was notified and medical treatment was secured. Infection had already set in and the employee was disabled for 21 days.

Whenever possible machinery and equipment should be arranged so that passage-ways are left entirely clear of obstructions. When this is impossible, suitable guards can often be erected to prevent striking against sharp corners, stumbling on projections, or stepping into depressions, etc. The prompt treatment of all injuries, no matter how slight, and the proper care of the wound until healed will eliminate disability due to infection.

THE FATALITIES

1. Employee was driving personally owned automobile from his official station to vendor's plant. After traveling ten miles through heavy fog and darkness he had a head on collision with another vehicle. The employee suffered a crushed chest and punctured lung. Death occurred in two hours.
2. Employee appeared to be normal in every way at 4:10 p.m. just before descending stairway to the dressing room. Five minutes later he was found unconscious on the dressing room floor where he had apparently fallen. Examination revealed fractured skull, concussion, and cerebral hemorrhage. Employee never regained consciousness. He died 10 days later.

Available information regarding the basic causes of the two fatal accidents listed above is not sufficient to indicate the specific remedial action necessary to eliminate similar accidents in the future. General recommendations made elsewhere in this report regarding the operation and maintenance of automotive equipment, good housekeeping, and the use of safety equipment and appliances, will go far toward the elimination of automobile accidents and those due to falls, if constantly observed and enforced.

Both of these cases clearly point to the need for immediate and more thorough investigations of all accidents. We must be able to profit by such experiences if similar misfortunes are to be avoided in the future.

Stop Accidents

S

MONEY

It can be used to much better
advantage

A

MANPOWER

There is still an acute labor
shortage

V

E

MATERIEL

It will be a long time before
new equipment is available

VICTORY WILL NOT BE WON
BY ACCIDENT